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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,988,994 :  
Issue Date: January 24, 2006 :  
Application No. 10/642,459 :  
Filed: August 14, 2003 :  
Attorney Docket No. **50124/01301** :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed March 31, 2010, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired at midnight January 24, 2010, for failure to pay the 3½ year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

JoAnne Burke  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions